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**JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

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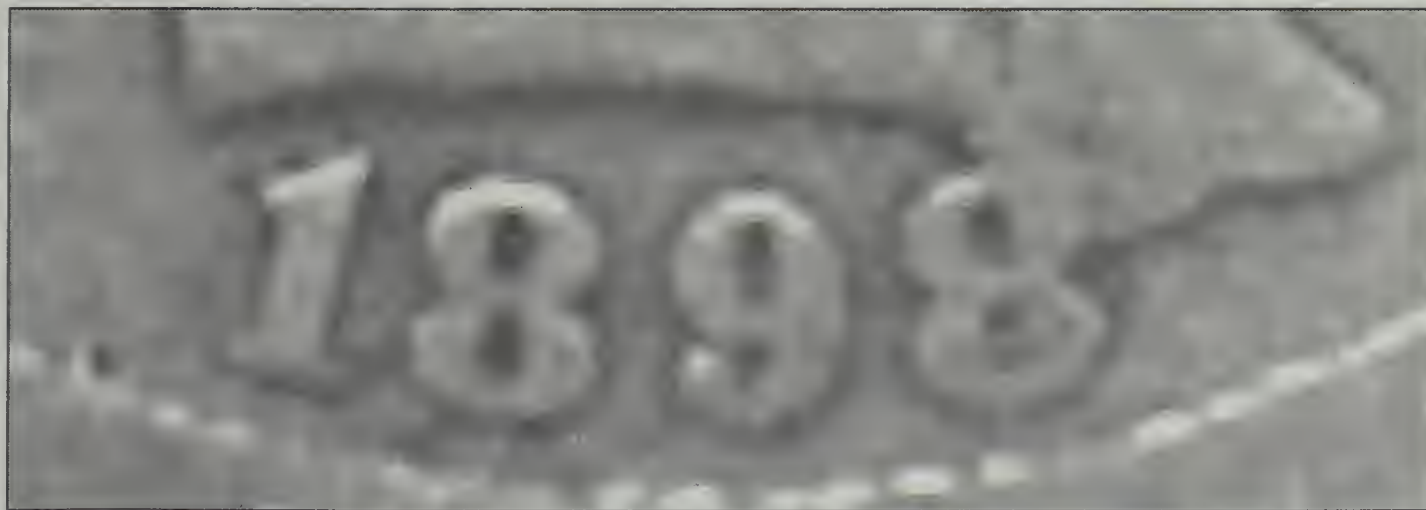
Volume 19

Number 1



**2008**

**1898 Barber Dime**



**With what appears to be a die break between the  
lower end of Liberty's neck and the top of the last 8**

**See pages 17-18**

*Photos courtesy of Brad Sykes*

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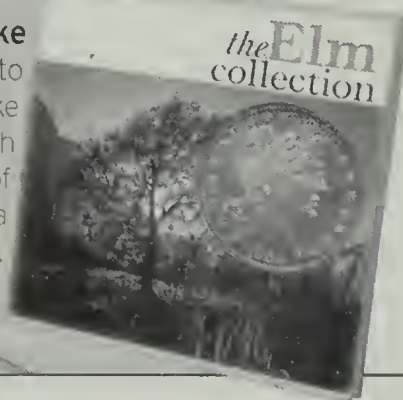
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BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein  
ANA Club Member C-146266

### OFFICERS

Philip Carrigan.....*President*  
Eileen Ribar.....*Editor, Secretary/Treasurer*  
Steve Szczerbiak.....*Variety Coordinator*  
Steve Hustad.....*Contributing Editor*  
William Cowburn.....*Contributing Editor*

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### ADDRESSES

John Frost, Webmaster: <http://www.BarberCoins.org>

For articles, submitting coins to be photographed, information for Barber Bits, Letters to the Editor, advertisements, layouts, etc.: Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Pl., Merrick, NY 11566; Tel. 516-379-4681; E-mail: [emcrib@optonline.net](mailto:emcrib@optonline.net)

For variety information, questions and comments: Steve Szczerbiak, new mailing address pending; E-mail: [sszczerbiak@aol.com](mailto:sszczerbiak@aol.com)

For membership dues (\$15 per year; Canadian residents \$20), information about the BCCS and back issues of the BCCS Journal (\$3.50 each): Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Pl., Merrick, NY 11566; Tel. 516-379-4681; E-mail: [emcrib@optonline.net](mailto:emcrib@optonline.net)

For BCCS issues in general: Philip Carrigan, 1944 Ash St., Waukegan, IL 60087; Tel. 847-625-0381; Fax to home phone (call first); E-mail: [philrph1892 @cs.com](mailto:philrph1892@cs.com)

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## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first 2008 issue of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society *Journal*.

The numismatic season of local and national shows and auctions is in full bloom! I find it fascinating to hear on public radio (and later other news sources) of the sale of a ten million dollar set of cents. This, of course, is the Husak Large Cent collection sold by Heritage at the February Long Beach Show. Coin sales make major news stories. Additionally, the numismatic news and the Greysheet (the Coin Dealer Newsletter) provide glowing news of a boom market.

How does the Barber coin collector react to this news? I have, in some instances, felt pleased with a current high price of something I purchased earlier. In balance of course, one experiences "sticker shock" when looking at coins at a bourse or in an auction catalog.

Do you adjust your expectations to these higher prices? One avenue is that of waiting for some stability in the market. Another option is that of adjusting one's grade preference to something lower such as EF rather than AU. I'm always interested in readers providing comments on these thoughts, favorable or critical.

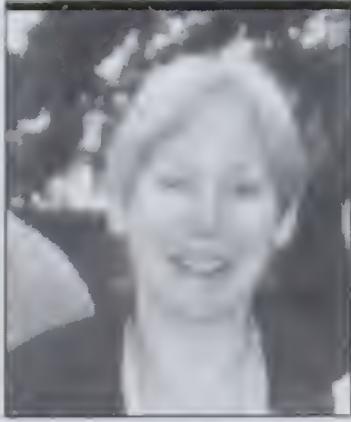
I'm writing these remarks in late February and plan to attend the Baltimore Show next week. I hope to meet new and old BCCS members while there.

Numismatic regards,  
*Phil Carrigan*

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS May 31st**



## BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

**HELP!** As we begin our nineteenth year in print, we are in great need of member material for the *Journal*. I invite each of you to PLEASE share your experiences, thoughts, opinions, and/or stories through an article, email or letter for this year's *Journal*.

The BCCS Barber Dime Census and Rarity Survey is well underway. I have glanced at the printed forms returned with annual dues and am impressed with the number of you - including my husband - who have completed (excluding the 1894-S) or nearly completed your dime sets. In his Sept. 29, 2003 U.S. Coins Trends column in *Coin World*, Paul Gilkes called Barber dimes "A challenging series" with the subtitle "Assembling Barber dime set tests collector's mettle." Do you agree with these statements? How challenging *was* it for you to acquire the dimes you have? Is there a particular one that caused you difficulty or one that you are especially pleased with?

All dime census/rarity surveys, whether done in printed form or via the BCCS website, should be returned by April 30th. John Frost will have the complete dime census/rarity results ready for inclusion in either the fall or winter '08 *Journal*.

Those of you who have not as yet renewed your 2008 BCCS membership will find a renewal form inside your *Journal*. Please send in your annual dues as soon as possible.

The 2007 Literary Contest ballot results are below. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all members who submitted articles. Each article received votes which means it was appreciated and enjoyed by your fellow BCCS members. Our 2008 contest opens with this issue. To be entered, simply submit an article for publication in the *Journal*.

1st Place - \$50 - "Estimating the Scarcity of Circulated Barber Half Dollars" by Rich Dula

2nd Place - \$25 - "My Very First Barbers" by Steve Hustad

3rd Place - 1 year FREE BCCS membership - "Barber Quarter Dollar Mint Mark Positions & Reverse Varieties 1892 - 1900" by William Cowburn



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# A Closer Look at the 1892-S/S Barber Quarter

By **Michael S. Fey**

According to David Lawrence (1994), the 1892-S Barber Quarter is ranked 12th in mintage among Barber quarters at 964,079, yet only 26th in certified populations as this first year of issue was heavily saved. There were two major reverse hub types produced, with one reverse die, the S/S mintmark variety, existing with the Type I reverse (eagle's left wing crosses the letter "E" in UNITED). For reasons unknown to this author, only a sketch of the S/S variety feature was given by Lawrence in his 2nd edition reference book on Barber Quarters.



*1892-S/S Barber 25c obverse*



*1892-S/S Barber 25c reverse*

The goal of this article is to provide close-up images of a recent raw AU+ specimen that I acquired at the FUN Show in January 2008 (see photos above), and to stimulate a new discussion about this variety.

A picture of this variety labeled as FS-25-1892S-501 was also given in the recent Fourth Edition, Volume II of the *Cherrypickers' Guide* (2006).

In the *BCCS Journal* 2006, John Frost published the Barber Quarter Census and Rarity Survey Results. The 1892-S/S variety reported among Barber Society members were only a scant 6 examples total: 2 in G, 1 in VF, 1 in AU, and 2 in MS. This was, by far, the lowest population of coins reported among the entire

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series with only the 1895-S/S showing 14 examples and the 1896-S center mint mark having only 26 examples reported. For comparison, the classic rarity 1901-S quarter was listed as having 42 examples reported by BCCS members. Further, according to collector opinion, the 1901-S quarter was ranked mostly in the R3-R7 range by BCCS members, while the 1892-S/S was ranked only in the R3-R4 range.

So why should anyone care about the 1892-S/S variety and just how rare is it? Let's face it, it is interesting to see such a widely repunched mintmark, and it offers a "wow factor" that makes it more exciting and desirable to own as compared to a common 1892-S. As far as rarity goes, it would appear to be R-7 according to the actual numbers given in the BCCS survey, yet is perceived as far more common according to member opinions. So, I checked with some of the population reports.

Only 4 examples were listed in the November, 2005 populations reported by ANACS, with none in MS, 1 in G, 2 in XF45 and 1 in AU58. The current online ANACS population report listed none. None were listed in the online NGC population report and none were listed in the PCGS populations report. PCGS has not even assigned a look-up number to this Cherrypickers' varieties as none have yet been submitted for certification. None were listed in the Heritage auction archives although I found an unattributed PCGS 64 that sold for \$2070 in a July 13th, 2007 auction. So, just how rare is it? Only time will tell.



One thing is for certain, a die crack has developed from the eagle's tail feathers that travels through the S/S mintmark and ends in the "R" of quarter (see photo above). An earlier die state of this crack can also be seen in the Cherrypickers' Guide photo. Was this the result of added stress imparted to the die upon punching the mintmark a second time? Did this crack further widen upon



subsequent striking and result in an early death to this die? The answer lies with feedback from those BCCS collectors who are fortunate enough to have acquired an example of the 1892 S/S Barber Quarter.

*Fivaz, Bill & J.T. Stanton. 2006. The Cherrypickers' Guide to Rare Die Varieties of United States Coins. pp 140. Whitman Publishing, LLC., Atlanta, GA.*

*Frost, John. 2006. Barber Quarter Census and Rarity Survey Results. Journal of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society pp. 10-13*

*Lawrence, David. 1994. The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition. DLRC Press, Virginia Beach, VA.*



# BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report

<b>Opening balance January 1, 2007</b>	<b>\$7815.02</b>
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Receipts	
Dues	3105.00
Advertising	670.00
Back issues	47.00
Total	\$3822.00

Total funds available:	\$11,637.02
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Expenses	
Journal production	1398.31 (Vol. 18, #1, 2, and 3)
Postage	823.34
Literary prizes	75.00
ANA dues	36.00
FUN dues	15.00
2000 envelopes	163.23
Total	\$2510.88

<b>Closing balance December 31, 2007</b>	<b>\$9126.14</b>
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# BCCS Website Story

By John Frost

While it takes a bit of work to maintain the website and answer all the email, especially from the non-BCCS world, there are occasional conversations that really make the project so rewarding. I received an email from Paula who wrote:

*I wish I had a picture to send, however; I will try to describe what I have. I think it is a Barber dime, the front looks like one with the bust, it is the size of other Barber dimes I have and the front is the same. However, it has no mint mark and the back is engraved with what looks like RCR overlapping and beautifully done. I have never seen one like this. Do you have any Idea what it is? The back does not look like a normal Barber dime with the wreath.*

I told her it sounded like a Love Token. I described how sometimes one side of a coin was re-engraved with initials, or sometimes an emblem or coat of arms. I told her that I had once seen a Barber Dime that had the entire Lord's Prayer engraved on a scroll on the back (it was very very small lettering, but well done and easy to read with a magnifier!). I mentioned that I myself have a Love Token on a gold dollar coin and I think it is fascinating. I always wondered who "HJC" was and the circumstances of how and when it was given to him or her.

I received a wonderful response from her:

*Thank you for your reply and yes, it is a love token I have decided just from your information. I am so thrilled - like you I think it is a beautiful piece of history. It actually belonged to my great uncle so I now understand the initials. Maybe was given to him by someone. Thank you so much. It will be something to pass down to the kids and they can tell the history of it.*

Paula

Her response really made my day!

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*Editor's note: Some topics are timeless. Some articles are timely. Occasionally, as space allows, we reprint articles from past Journals which we feel will be of interest to our newer members. This article is reprinted from the Vol. 1, No. 4 Journal, Winter 1990, pp. 19-21.*

# Original & Problem-free Barbers - the Real Story

By **Bruce Longyear**

Getting agreement between buyer and seller on the grade of a Barber coin is difficult enough, but when the question of originality arises, many collectors and dealers become self-appointed authorities on the subject, which more than limits their ability to be objective.

Barber coins in general, like that of Seated dollars and early type, are a challenge to locate in wholly original and uncleaned condition. Most semi-key, key, and rare dates of the series have suffered some form of cleaning through the years. A majority of collectors strive to obtain that natural steel, silver, or slate-grey coin pulled by chance from circulation decades ago and long forgotten. This was a primary reason some of these coins escaped the cleaning cloth.

Back then, a coin was intentionally taken from circulation when it was considered a valuable collectors' item, i.e., the 1896-S quarter, 1901-S quarter, etc. Recognized as having special value, these collectable coins were oftentimes subjected to some type of enhancement or cleaning to make them appear better than they really were. Nowadays, however, coins with an original look are preferred by knowledgeable, quality-conscious collectors and dealers alike.

The term "original," as it implies, refers to a coin that has never been cleaned. Original coins can be toned or brilliant (unless below VF). As the grade of a coin increases, one must expect it to possess certain qualities. Although these qualities will vary by personal taste, most will usually agree on the same general qualities such as eye appeal, degree of mint luster, a presentable strike and, of course, originality.

Dark or deeply toned pieces in most (especially higher) grades are not well received by a large majority of knowledgeable collectors. While being original in the true sense of the word, the detail of these toned coins tends to be hidden by their toning. Only when viewed under a brilliant light in a tilted position is one able to observe all the detail present. Few collectors or dealers find this type of toning desirable, relegating these coins to the "cleaned" category, and consequent-



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ly, having little if any demand. On the other hand, there are the lustrous, flashy, and/or attractively toned coins that will have connoisseurs aggressively competing for their possession. Lower grade coins having this nice and original eye appeal should possess that antique steel, silver, or slate-grey pulled from circulation look mentioned earlier.

Luster is the effect brought about by the way light reflects off the surface of a coin and is an important consideration for coins grading choice EF or higher. Luster is caused by the extreme pressure required to strike a coin, forcing the metal up into the detail of the die. When a coin is viewed under an ideal 100 watt incandescent light, while simultaneously tilting it back and forth at a 45 degree angle and moving the wrist east and west in a slow manner, the viewer will see what is referred to as a “cartwheel” or “hourglass” effect. (This is best seen on BU coins, and to a lesser degree on AU and lower graded coins, as the more wear a coin experiences, the more luster is lost.)

Looking at a coin in this manner will allow the light to reflect off its surfaces from every possible angle, thereby creating an optimum viewing spectrum for the observer.

Shiny and bright doesn't imply that a coin is original or has authentic mint luster. Learn to distinguish authentic mint luster from that which is simulated. For example, beware of a lustrous 1901-S quarter in Fine condition. Chances are it has been cleaned or whizzed because luster wears off below the choice EF grade. Just because a coin is EF or AU doesn't mean it's original either. Look for the “cartwheel” or “hourglass” effect mentioned earlier. That's the key. Authentic mint luster will follow light when tilted under it. A cleaned or whizzed coin will just be bright and shiny.

It's also important to look at the SURFACES of a coin, and NOT JUST ITS DETAIL, when trying to determine its originality. Many collectors make the repeated mistake of looking at a coin's detail, overlooking the surfaces and missing the signs of a possible cleaning. You've heard of “seeing the forest through the trees,” haven't you? This principle applies to coins as well when one sees the surfaces of a coin through its detail. The books always talk about detail and this has brainwashed collectors into thinking this is all that matters. Just as coins have three sides ((obverse, reverse and the forgotten EDGE), “seeing the whole coin” must involve looking first at the surfaces and then the detail to accurately determine originality as well as grade. This is the approach I always take when I buy coins.

Have you ever washed and waxed your car on a bright, sunny day and stepped back to admire your work? Did you then notice any fine hairline-like

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scratches or what appeared to be a “spider-webbed” effect (best seen on a black car), especially when viewed at different angles? If so, this is what to look for on coins, as well as how to look at them. You just don’t look at a single part, you look at the WHOLE thing.

I always seek out the original, uncleaned coins at all shows. Often during a show I am approached by other dealers, as well as collectors, trying to sell me coins I’ve already seen and passed on because they were priced too high or, more to the point of this article, not original. Have you wondered why dealer “buy ads” in coin publications specify “original and uncleaned” or “problem-free” (not to mention “strictly graded”) in the headings or small print? This is because these coins are easiest to sell; they sell themselves. These coins are the most sought after, desirable, and highly demanded among serious and discriminating collectors and dealers alike.

Concern yourself with quality and originality first, then price. Chances are if you’ve looked long and hard and paid a premium for that certain coin, someone else will too, as they have been looking just as hard, but longer. Originality has a price, it goes hand in hand with quality. More often than not, it’s worth paying for this attribute. Granted, it will take experience to learn to detect originality, but one should have patience because it *will* pay off.

Besides a coin’s originality, another important criteria to consider is whether or not it has any problems, and if so, how bad they are. Remember, coins were made to circulate. They CAN have a light surface mark or two. It is okay to have a Fine, VF, or even a Good coin with a light inconsequential mark or two. I’m NOT saying it’s okay for a coin to have a whack, gouge, scrape or HEAVY contact mark. The key word is inconsequential. One should be realistic. It’s unrealistic to expect a VF, Fine, VG, and especially Good coin to possess MS67 qualities. I’ve spent more of my time and postage with collectors unrealistically seeking out these coins. Use realistic expectations when looking to make a purchase. Again, this is acquired through experience. Weigh the overall assets of a coin against its liabilities, if any. Don’t make a mountain out of a mole hill. Get a second opinion from someone knowledgeable and whom you trust.

Thus far I’ve only spoken about the positive aspects of buying quality coins. When collectors try to sell their coins, I’ve found them offered at prices they consider “right.” I use the word “right” because these collectors thought they were quality or originality-oriented when they were buying. When reality finally catches up with them and they discover they weren’t, it’s at selling time. Disturbing lessons are learned about what they thought they knew. What they are now offering me for sale has been cleaned to varying degrees, and usually over-graded as well. At the time they bought these coins, they thought they were good buys



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because they were priced “right.” This is a common trap that all too often snares collectors.

Finally, don’t get caught up in the price game. Many collectors are hung up on the *Greysheet* and *Trends*, treating them as gospel. When confronted with an original coin that is either scarce, rare, or semi-common and priced over either *Greysheet* or *Trends*, a “pass” or “no, it’s too much” is oftentimes heard and no sale takes place. Later, maybe days, weeks, or even years, it is often regretted and a lesson is learned. If you’ve been searching for a coin for a long time and it’s what you’ve wanted in your dreams, don’t be cheap. Be prepared to pay a premium (if asked). You’ll thank yourself many times.

When purchasing coins, remember that paying within the boundaries of *Greysheet* or *Trends* doesn’t mean you are getting quality or originality. Don’t take that for granted. Learn how to tell the difference. When you’re convinced, you may find it’s worth paying a little more KNOWING you’re getting an original and problem-free Barber coin.

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# Barber Knowledge Barometer Revisited

This quiz first ran in the Barber Society's introductory *Journal* and again in the Vol. 1, #4 issue. 17 of the original 20 questions are below. Hint: Some multiple choice questions may have more than one correct answer.

1. Barber patterns are not as rare as once thought and occasionally surface in sales of private collections. (True or False)
2. Because of a new minting technique used for the first time to produce Barber patterns, they could: a) be modified without replacing the die b) be mass produced c) see the final product before going into production d) none of the above
3. In its day, the design of the Morgan Dollar was more widely condemned than the design used on Barber coinage. (True or False)
4. Which of the following coins were not made under Charles Barber's direction?  
a) Liberty Standing Quarters, Type II b) Trade Dollar c) Isabella Quarter  
d) "V" Nickel
5. In the 1890's, mint marks on Barber quarter reverses were shifted to the right of their normal location to obtain greater clearance. (True or False)
6. In 1900, new master hubs for both obverse and reverse of Barber quarters appeared with the most striking change on the obverse appearing in Liberty's a) neck b) mouth c) eyes d) ear
7. Known varieties of the "micro-o" mint mark include the a) 1901-S dime b) 1905-O dime c) 1900-O half d) 1892-O half
8. The ANA Official Grading Standards have how many distinct grading levels for circulated Barber coins?
9. What date dime almost always comes very softly struck? a) 1899-O b) 1902-O c) 1907-O d) 1911-D
10. Barber coins do not need complete rims to be graded Very Good. (True or False)
11. According to the late Gene Edwards, in which Barber denomination can most dates and mint marks be found in near perfect condition?



- 
12. Uncirculated Barber quarters from the New Orleans and Denver mints are often softly struck, causing fully struck specimens to command a substantial premium. (True or False)
13. The reverse of many Barber halves typically comes softly struck in the a) eagle's claws b) stars c) neck d) upper right quadrant of the shield and upper part of the right wing
14. Barber varieties include a) overdates b) rotated reverses c) wrong-sized mint marks d) all of the above
15. What is the term frequently used to describe a variety that appears as a swelling on the cheek, jaw and neck of 1906-O and 1908-O Barber halves?
16. According to the ANA Official Grading Guide, for a Barber coin to receive a choice Extremely Fine (XF45) grade, part of the mint luster must still be present. (True or False)
17. Who discovered the famous 1905-O "micro-o" dime? a) Breen b) Newcomb c) Mehl d) ANA

Answers can be found on page 19



## BCCS "blind" Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send out messages using a "Blind Carbon Copy" setting, which means everyone on the list would get the email, but nobody's email address would be displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait until the next issue of the *Journal*. It is, of course, completely voluntary, and is open to members only.

If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: [BCCS@BarberCoins.org](mailto:BCCS@BarberCoins.org) and you will be added to the list. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.

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# Barber Bits

To BCCS,

I have been collecting coins since 1945. The Barber Dimes are what I really like the most. My first Barber was a 1911 Liberty Head Nickel (change from a haircut). I thought I had something unique. After showing it to my dad, he brought out his coins although he was never a collector.

The coin aroused my interest so I started collecting and completing Barber nickels, dimes, quarters and halves. Never owned a '01-S quarter. I worked in retail so I had many coins to inspect. Through the years I found almost all the rare coins from the 20th century. I never found the 1918/17 nickel or the '16 Standing Liberty Quarter or 1942/1 Dime, but most everything else.

My interest changed in the 70's so I sold all my U.S. coins. (But HOW STUPID I WAS!) I started to collect Barber Dimes again in 1992 and since then have a pretty good collection. I started with VF-35 or better. Those were the days you could still buy better raw coins from dealers or at shows.

In 1996 I started upgrading where possible. I wanted all P's in MS-63, now 64 (tough), and later I decided to try to put together a set of at least XF-45 or better. I now lack only 14 dates that are not at least MS-61.

By 2001 or '02, I found I could not buy an uncertified coin. Dealers do not grade properly for the most part. They always squeeze scarce and rare coins for more money. I am lucky as I have an old-time dealer with a conscience who sells his sliders to other dealers. As my interest peaked, I found out how really rare accurately graded pieces are. Most slabbed coins have come from David Lawrence Rare Coins.

Here are my findings on rarity and grade on Barber Dimes. My top ten:

- 1894-S - Unique
- 1896-O - Very tough in grades of 45 and higher
- 1897-O - Very tough in grades of 45 and higher
- 1894-O - Very tough in grades of 45 and higher
- 1895-O - Very tough in grades of 55 and higher
- 1901-S - Very tough in grades of 45 and higher
- 1903-S - Very tough in grades of 45 and higher
- 1905-O - Micro O very tough above VF-35 or higher
- 1909-D - Very tough in MS grades
- 1910-S - Very tough in MS-64



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Obviously there are more.

I am now trying to put the P's together in 64 - very tough. I still need 1895, 1896, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1906 and 1916.

What I have learned: if it is cheap, it won't certify and is not good; really a waste of money. There are a lot of dealers who are still trying to sell this material so be alert.

When I collected as a youth, between 1945 and 1970 Barbers were plentiful. I never found the 1894-O, 1895-P and 1895-O dimes, nor did I find the 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S quarters. I did find all the halves except a couple of dates; I don't really remember the dates. Most of the coins sixty years ago were AG to Fine with the occasional higher grade pieces. No keys.

It has been fun and I will still continue to collect.

Yours truly,  
James C. Haberbush



Dear Editor,

As a new member to BCCS, I recently received and read (okay, devoured) the newsletter I was sent, and took it with me on a recent trip to share with a friend of mine that I have recently gotten into Barber dimes. He's arguably one of my very best friends (I'll be buying him a membership here shortly, and we'll both be submitting our respective entries for the Barber Dime Population Census Project). He has helped me locate Barber dimes for my collection (including a problem free G6 1895 with full rims - for \$3... now THAT'S a friend for you!!!).

I have since bought him a Dansco album and give him any dimes I've upgraded. I've tried to ease my conscience (over the 1895 he found for me) a little by giving him an 1892-O, 1892-S, and 1894 (all in G to VG), among other dates. Needless to say, we both enjoy the thrill of the hunt, and we both win when I make a purchase these days, as they are all upgrades at this point (with the exception of a 1901-S that I need to acquire to fill the last hole in my album).

While on the same trip mentioned above, I picked up an interesting (albeit low grade) Barber dime. *[See photos on Journal front cover]* It is an 1898 (common date), but it has what appears to be a die break that runs between the trunca-

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tion of the neck to the top of the last 8 in the date. My friend commented that it looks more like a cud, but it is not along the rim like most cud errors I've found on modern coinage.

Also, below is a photo of a recent acquisition, a real sweetheart I decided needed to go home with me - an 1892-O half in what I would call VG (with full rims obv. and rev.), but with (what I consider to be minor) scratches on the obverse. I managed to pick it up in a recent auction for \$260. Not too shabby for a novice.



Enjoy the photos, and happy hunting!

All the best,  
Brad Sykes



## Summary of FUN 2008 BCCS Meeting

Our Winter meeting was held at the annual FUN Show in Orlando this past January. We had a good gathering of about 10 members, and we talked about various topics for 90 minutes! We discussed the current Barber Dime Census and Rarity Survey, and commented on the learnings from the past surveys on the Barber Quarters and Halves. Several members mentioned how valuable the information contained in the reports was, and everyone seems to be looking forward to this year's results for the dimes.

We also talked about some of the conversations we had at the ANA meeting in August about possible future projects and bounced some ideas around. One possibility is a study of the third side of the coin -- edge reeding -- which has been done for some other series by other collector clubs. Other ideas include the for-



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mation of Special Interest Groups for varieties, or for each of the Barber series, to proactively further our knowledge through some research by groups of individuals most interested in doing so. We thought we should discuss these further during our Annual Meeting at the Baltimore ANA this summer and get some things going (if folks are interested).

An extensive show-and-tell happened as several members passed around various Barber coins, including a number of them found on the show floor. Some nice higher-grade halves were found by one member, while another member was happy with an AU58 1898-S quarter he had just found for a very reasonable price; by all accounts, the find of the day! Some dimes with repunched mintmarks were also passed around. It was amazing how fast the hour and a half passed, but we finally broke up the meeting and headed to the bourse floor.

Our own Bill Cowburn presented an educational seminar titled, "Significant Varieties and Mintmark Positions in the Barber Quarter Series," which was very informative. He presented the various hub changes and different mintmark positions along with data on the relative number of appearances of the different varieties. Those who attended learned a lot! Perhaps some other members will be speakers at educational seminars in the future, either at FUN or the ANA. I've done it before, and it's a blast.

An update on the Barber Dime Census and Rarity Survey -- responses are coming in fast, with over 70 online responses alone. Thanks for everyone's support, and we hope to have some interesting material to share with you all this summer.



Pg. 14 "Barber Knowledge Barometer Revisited" answers:

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1) False  | 2) c      |
| 3) True   | 4) b      |
| 5) True   | 6) d      |
| 7) b,d    | 8) ten    |
| 9) c      | 10) False |
| 11) Dimes | 12) True  |
| 13) a,d   | 14) d     |
| 15) mumps | 16) True  |
| 17) b     |           |

Rating Your Results: All 17 correct - Expert; 16 to 13 - Specialist; 12 to 9 - Enthusiast; Less than 9 - Novice with potential

# 1913-S Barber Dime Qualifies as a Sleeper

By **Paul M. Green**

Sometimes the excitement of finding a good coin at a low price makes us forget to ask important questions about whether the sleeper involved is really sleeping and someday will be discovered and soar in price, or whether it is in a coma with the probability of it staying at the same price for decades.

Barber dimes are a great example of the difficulty of determining the true nature of sleepers. There is a good case to be made that the entire Barber dime set is asleep, with the exception of the 1895-O. There are numerous dates with low mintages and prices. The problem is deciding whether someday people will discover Barber dimes and decide it's a set with a lot of good dates, or whether people are just not interested in them.

If there is one Barber dime date that jumps out, it would be the 1913-S with its mintage of 510,000 pieces. The dime saw a lot of use in commerce, so the mintages were generally solid. The only regular-date with a mintage lower than 510,000 was the 1916-D which was the first year of a new design.

If you look through dimes and their mintages in the 20th century, you see the 1916-D Mercury, the 1913-S Barber and a small number of other Barber dates all being below the one million mark, but that is the total. Looking at prices is also interesting. If you take G-4 prices, you find the lower mintage 1916-D is at \$775, while the 440,000 mintage 1895-O is \$320. If we remember that 510,000 mintage for the 1913-S, we see higher mintage dates like the 1901-S, with a mintage of 593,022, at \$75 in G-4, while the 613,300 mintage 1903-S is the same price. The 1894-O with a mintage of 720,000 is currently at \$57.50, yet the lower mintage 1913-S is just \$13.50.

The immediate thought is the 1913-S must have been saved at the time, but there is little to support that notion from what we know of the period.

The 1913-S, while low mintage, was hardly the best coin of the year. The 1913-S quarter had a mintage of just 40,000 pieces and the 1913 half dollar was just 188,627. Even the Philadelphia 1913 quarter had a lower mintage of 484,613,



and the Denver and San Francisco 1913 half dollars were close.

We know coin collecting was popular in 1913, but there were any number of better coins to acquire. Just a few years later, there was a flood of new designs and more low mintage coins. It becomes difficult to make a case that the 1913-S was heavily saved. That fact is supported by the current \$500 price of the 1913-S in MS-60. If you check MS-60 Barber dime prices, that is lower than the 1909-S, which had a mintage of one million pieces. That might suggest some saving, but we find other dates with higher mintages and lower prices, suggesting that the 1909-S was not saved at a normal pace while the 1913-S was a coin saved in the numbers you would have expected in 1913. It seems to be a coin destined to fall between the cracks of collector interest.

The issue with the 1913-S is when it will be discovered and move in price. Upper grades might have better potential. In 1998, it was \$390 in MS-60, so today's \$500 is a solid increase. In MS-65, we see the same, as its 1998 price of \$1,100 has turned into \$1,450.

While there are signs of life in the 1913-S, it would still be safe to suggest it is very inexpensive. It could be much more costly in all grades if additional demand were to surface. We cannot be certain about additional demand, but we can certainly say the 1913-S is a good buy at current prices.

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*Editor's note: The following chart gives a comparison of the prices quoted for the dates, mintmarks, and grades mentioned in Paul Green's Dec 14, 2004 article and those given in the February 2008 Numismatic News "Coin Market."*

Dec. 2004 article	Feb. 2008 "Coin Market"
1894-O in G-4 - \$57.50	\$70.00
1895-O in G-4 - \$320.00	\$385.00
1901-S in G-4 - \$75.00	\$80.00
1903-S in G-4 - \$75.00	\$84.00
1913-S in G-4 - \$13.50	\$30.00
in MS-60 - \$500.00	\$480.00
in MS-65 - \$1,450.00	\$1,350.00
1916-D in G-4 - \$775.00	\$1,000.00

# Barber Coin Collectors' Society Bylaws

1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber and minted from 1892 to 1916.
2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, society members and non-members alike.
4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.
5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.
6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.
7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.
8. Offers benefit to all Barber collectors, whether they collect Barber dimes, quarters or halves, graded AG or MS65+.
9. Makes sure its members have a say in the organization.
10. Is a not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the benefit of its members and those who assist the Society in advancing its purpose.





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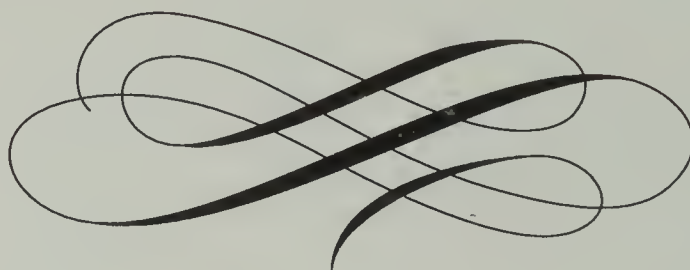
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